

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 3 beginning on line 31 (which starts "Still in reference to Figure 1 . . .") with the following amended paragraph:

Still in reference to Figure 1, housing 14 includes a well 34 centered about axis 16 which includes a first well 34₁ configured to receive first ball 38 and a second well 34₂ configured to receive second ball 39. In the illustrated embodiment, when coil 28 is energized, the magnetic field generated by coil 28 will force armature 20 against the primary plate 22, pushing on the rod 26. Rod 26 is guided through an opening 36 exerts a force on a first ball 38. First ball 38 and a second ball 39 are axially movable within first and second wells 34₁ and 34₂ ~~well 34~~. When displaced by rod 26, first ball 38 engages a first valve seat 40 within first well 34₁, thereby causing second ball 39 to disengage from a second valve seat 46 within second well 34₂. Once second ball 39 is disengaged from second valve seat 46, fluid flow is permitted between a first port 54 and a second port 56. First and second wells 34₁ and 34₂ ~~Well 34~~ may also contain a set flutes 50, best shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3. Flutes 50 minimize non-axial movement of first ball 38 and second ball 39 within first and second wells 34₁ and 34₂ ~~well 34~~ while allowing fluid flow past the balls. The shape of flutes 50 can vary depending upon design requirements, thus the invention is not limited to the exemplary shapes of flutes 50 as depicted in Figures 2 and 3. A second spring 48 links second ball 39 to main body 12. Second spring 48 slightly preloads second ball 39, causing it to remain engaged with second valve seat 46 until module 10 is energized.

Please replace the paragraph on page 4 beginning on line 14 (which starts "Referring again to Figure 1 . . .") with the following amended paragraph:

Referring again to Figure 1, when module 10 is in an energized state, current supplied from an external source, not shown, flows through coil 28. This current flow induces a magnetic field, which is mostly contained within module 10 by primary plate 22, armature 20 and frame 30. As armature 20 moves toward primary plate 22, it exerts a force on rod 26 as it slides axially through opening 36. Rod 26 exerts a force on first ball 38, forcing first ball 38 to engage first valve seat 40 and compressing second spring 48. Once first ball 38 engages first valve seat 40, the preload supplied by second spring 48, which forces second ball 39 to engage with second valve seat 46 while module 10 is in a de-energized state, will be overcome. Hence, second ball 39 is disengaged from second valve seat 46, thereby allowing

fluid to flow between first port 54 and second port 56. In one embodiment of the invention, first port 54 can be a ~~control~~ supply port that directs fluid flow, while second port 56 can supply control fluids from external sources not shown to module 10.

Please replace the paragraph on page 4 beginning on line 27 (which starts “When module 10 is in a de-energized state . . .”) with the following amended paragraph:

When module 10 is in a de-energized state, no current flows through coil 28. Because no magnetic flux is present to force armature 20 to move toward primary plate 22, there is no force present to overcome the preload supplied by second spring 48. Thus, second ball 39 is forced by preloaded second spring 48 to engage with second valve seat 46. First ball 38 is forced to disengage from first valve seat 40. As first ball 38 is disengaged from first valve seat 40, a fluid flow path is created between ~~first port 54~~ second port 56 and a third port 58. In one embodiment of the invention, third port 58 can exhaust fluids from module 10. The use of the nomenclature “3/2 module” indicates that the module has three ports that permit two paths of fluid flow. For example, when module 10 is in an energized state, fluid flow is permitted between first port 54 and second port 56, constituting one path for fluid flow. When module 10 is in a de-energized state, fluid flow is permitted between ~~first port 54~~ second port 56 and third port 58, constituting a second path for fluid to flow.

Please replace the paragraph entitled “Abstract” on page 11 with the following amended paragraph:

A 3/2 normally closed module includes a main body, a housing and a magnetically energizable coil. The main body includes a bore, an armature and a rod. The housing includes first and second valve seats and is configured to receive a first and second ball. The housing also includes a first, a second and a third port. When the module is in an energized state, current flows through the coil, generating a magnetic field. The magnetic field forces the armature against the rod, which in turn, forces the first ball to engage the first valve seat. As the first ball engages the first valve seat, the first ball forces the second ball to disengage from the second valve seat. As a result, a fluid flow path is created between the first and second ports. When the module is in a de-energized state, a spring, disposed between the main body and the second ball, forces the second ball to engage with the second valve seat. When the second ball engages the second valve seat, the second ball forces the first ball to

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disengage from the first valve seat. As a result, a fluid flow path is created between the first and ~~third~~ second ports.